

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in October was 211,397 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,819 t, 1% lower than that of the previous month and 6% below the rate for October 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 84.4 cents per pound in September to 89.13 cents per pound in October, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during October. The price range began the month at 61–63 cents per pound and, on October 5, increased a penny to 62–64 cents per pound. On October 13, the price range dropped briefly to 60–61 cents per pound before rebounding on October 18 to 61–63 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

### U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption for the first 3 quarters of 2004 increased 12% compared with those for the same period in 2003. Imports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 6: Metal and alloys increased 10%; semifabricated materials, 11%; and scrap, 30%. Canada remained the largest shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying

55% of total U.S. imports in the first 9 months of the year, followed by Russia with 19%.

Total aluminum exports in the first 3 quarters of 2004 increased 16% compared with those for the first 9 months of 2003. As with imports, exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 43% increase in exports of metals and alloys. Exports of semifabricated materials increased 13%, and scrap exports increased 10% compared with those for the same period in 2003. Canada, Mexico, and China were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 83% of total U.S. exports in the first 9 months of 2004.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased slightly in November to 89.38 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during November. On November 10, the price range decreased to 60–62 cents per pound. The price range held steady at this level until November 30, when it increased to 62–64 cents per pound.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 <sup>p</sup>	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	753	1,400
January-October	2,266	1,480	978	2,460	2,390	692	3,080	7,810	1,380
2004:									
January	216	151	94	245	211	64	274	735	1,430
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	152	100	251	297	80	377	837	1,480 <sup>r</sup>
August	210	158	106	264	225	87	312	786	1,480
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,430
October	211	159	104	263	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-October	2,098	1,540	998	2,530	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM  
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2003 <sup>p</sup>	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550	2,930
2003:												
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-October	1,400	1,030	723	625	746	695	110	99	5	5	2,980	2,460
2004:												
January	133	99	57	51	90	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	292	245
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	100	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	251
August	146	108	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	317	264
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	146	107	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	317	263
January-October	1,400	1,030	630	558	916	856	92	82	2	2	3,040	2,530

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN OCTOBER 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	121,000	146,000	89,400	107,000
Integrated aluminum companies	64,000	64,000	56,400	56,400
Independent mill fabricators	81,100	97,300	75,800	91,000
Foundries	7,600	9,120	6,760	8,110
Other consumers	363	436	363	436
Total	274,000	317,000	229,000	263,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN OCTOBER 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	October				January-October <sup>2</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	19,600	80,600	81,800	18,400	783,000	784,000
Can stock clippings	2,700	24,600	24,700	2,600	252,000	252,000
Other clippings	3,190	8,260	8,260	3,190	77,800	78,700
Borings and turnings	4,530	17,800	17,800	4,530	172,000	172,000
Dross and skimmings	4,900	34,400	34,400	4,900	326,000	326,000
Total new scrap	34,900	166,000	167,000	33,600	1,610,000	1,610,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	12,000	32,500	32,500	12,000	308,000	307,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,100 <sup>r</sup>	1,430	1,370	1,150	17,000	17,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	4,750	62,700	64,100	3,370	600,000	609,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,160	8,750	8,750	1,160	85,400	86,500
Total old scrap	19,000 <sup>r</sup>	105,000	107,000	17,700	1,010,000	1,020,000
Sweated pig	72	785	788	68	7,420	7,410
Total all classes	54,000	272,000	274,000	51,400	2,630,000	2,640,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	October				January-October <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,340	1,660	1,660	3,340	15,200	15,300
380 and variations	7,480	22,800	22,800	7,480	229,000	229,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,660	3,940	3,940	2,660	41,100	41,100
No. 319 and variations	4,360	9,570	9,570	4,360	103,000	104,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,250	2,680	2,610	1,320	23,600	23,800
Al-Zn alloys	239	162	162	239	1,450	1,440
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	31	31
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	3,810	3,810
Other <sup>4</sup>	5,330 <sup>r</sup>	8,340	8,340	5,330	63,800	63,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	208,000	208,000
Total all alloys	34,900 <sup>r</sup>	71,200	71,200	35,000	690,000	689,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,950	XX	XX	101,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,050	XX	XX	32,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	715	XX	XX	7,340	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	57,500	XX	XX	548,000	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revised data from previous months.

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Argentina	--	56,500	57	423	--	204	57	57,100
Australia	10,900	50,400	26	74	--	35	10,900	50,500
Bahrain	394	1,590	982	9,310	--	--	1,380	10,900
Belgium	--	688	1,080	8,540	--	--	1,080	9,230
Brazil	14,000	151,000	2,910	21,400	1,350	2,000	18,200	174,000
Canada	137,000	1,270,000	43,100	368,000	30,300	266,000	211,000	1,910,000
China	6,410	9,200	5,070	38,200	--	89	11,500	47,500
France	56	2,520	506	5,780	20	177	582	8,480
Germany	34	4,170	9,360	59,700	213	571	9,610	64,400
Ghana	1,450	1,790	--	--	--	--	1,450	1,790
Hungary	--	--	397	2,060	--	--	397	2,060
Italy	--	450	158	1,450	--	--	158	1,900
Japan	69	1,010	891	7,830	43	405	1,000	9,250
Korea, Republic of	16	52	173	2,210	--	29	190	2,290
Mexico	--	1,260	1,780	15,800	6,040	67,200	7,820	84,300
Netherlands	319	852	235	1,990	--	191	554	3,030
Norway	11	555	1	112	5	5	17	672
Russia	71,700	619,000	3,920	26,600	982	8,980	76,600	655,000
South Africa	--	26,500	2,180	25,800	--	--	2,180	52,300
Spain	--	97	255	733	--	--	255	830
Sweden	--	1,300	379	2,510	--	188	379	4,000
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	350	2,920	--	--	350	2,920
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	44	--	44
United Arab Emirates	3,200	41,600	--	1	--	167	3,200	41,700
United Kingdom	2,810	5,620	327	2,220	300	3,460	3,440	11,300
Venezuela	23,600	110,000	2,070	16,000	2,200	15,100	27,900	142,000
Other	7,370	34,600	8,000	67,500	5,040	42,900	20,400	145,000
Total	279,000	2,390,000	84,200	687,000	46,500	408,000	410,000	3,490,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Australia	23	84	156	1,610	--	8	178	1,710
Azerbaijan	--	--	(2)	(2)	--	--	(2)	(2)
Belgium	18	403	430	4,040	--	61	448	4,500
Brazil	1	233	657	9,090	--	(2)	658	9,320
Canada	12,600	99,900	45,500	405,000	11,100	107,000	69,200	612,000
China	10	306	2,860	22,900	29,800	217,000	32,700	240,000
Czech Republic	--	1	6	116	--	--	6	117
Dominican Republic	--	10	115	559	--	--	115	568
France	42	104	476	4,820	--	174	519	5,100
Germany	60	356	431	3,350	--	241	490	3,950
Hong Kong	22	86	1,100	5,900	789	9,030	1,910	15,000
India	2	128	17	170	298	4,730	316	5,020
Israel	74	889	206	1,630	--	19	280	2,530
Italy	6	37	215	1,520	--	42	221	1,600
Japan	337	4,430	531	5,060	1,800	17,400	2,670	26,900
Korea, Republic of	117	438	1,030	13,400	5,310	36,100	6,450	49,900
Malaysia	--	11	67	924	23	23	90	958
Mexico	14,500	104,000	16,600	115,000	3,850	27,800	34,900	246,000
Netherlands	56	286	74	522	20	192	150	1,000
Russia	--	5	1	26	--	--	1	32
Saudi Arabia	9	29	2,820	11,700	(2)	(2)	2,830	11,700
Singapore	1	156	123	1,200	--	362	124	1,720
Spain	14	125	35	619	58	1,530	106	2,280
Sweden	--	--	24	182	--	--	24	182
Taiwan	63	469	349	4,620	3,670	28,000	4,080	33,100
Tajikistan	--	--	52	52	--	--	52	52
Thailand	20	113	461	2,590	539	2,260	1,020	4,960
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	82	700	968	8,790	3	143	1,050	9,630
Venezuela	--	15	79	1,340	--	3	79	1,360
Other	175	3,040	2,020	15,100	2,550	16,600	4,750	34,700
Total	28,300	216,000	77,400	642,000	59,800	468,000	165,000	1,330,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.